

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

REACH-MILWAUKEE

2001-2002 Grant Amount: **\$5,962,325**

Private Industry Council of Milwaukee County

2342 N. 27th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

Tel: (414) 270-1701; Fax: (414) 225-2375

Project Director: Lois O'Keefe: lokeefe@milwjobs.com

Web site: <http://www.reachmilwaukee.com>

Mission and Vision

Our mission is to provide youth the opportunity and support needed to lead productive lives, attain gainful employment and contribute to the development and growth of the community.

Program Overview

The project enhances career opportunities for Milwaukee youth by providing grass-roots recruitment, family services, college introductory courses, vocational training, GED preparation, cultural and recreational experiences, mentoring, job placement and follow-up services.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

- The Milwaukee Empowerment Zone is blessed with several good sports, recreational and educational facilities for youth including the Youth Opportunity Center
- There are several sports, recreational and educational facilities for youth located in the Milwaukee Empowerment Zone, including the new REACH Youth Opportunity Center.
- The REACH Youth Opportunity Center offers youth access to a career resource center, computer lab, one-on-one counseling, recreation and educational programming.
- There are three satellite service located throughout the Empowerment Zone.
- The REACH Institute is a high school diploma program for out of school youth which combines part-time unsubsidized work experiences with 20 hours of high school coursework
- The "Reach for the Arts" project is designed to provide opportunities in, as well as create exposure to various art forms. Partners include CEO II, Ko-Thi Dance Company, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Milwaukee Repertory Theatre.
- Youth are offered memberships to their choice of the following agencies: Martin Luther King Community Center, YMCA or Boys and Girls Club.
- Two REACH Youth sites offer PLATO tutorial software for career assessment, GED and other educational needs.

KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **The City and County of Milwaukee:** Host youth opportunity outreach locations
- **The Milwaukee Park District, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center:** Partnership that provides inclusive recreational and personal development services.
- **Milwaukee Public Schools:** Youth who complete their coursework through the REACH Institute receive their high school diploma.
- **Big Step, Inc:** Apprenticeship training preparation program that assists individuals to become an indentured apprentice. The program includes a career evaluation and a 12-week evaluation.
- **Boys and Girls Club:** Program targets dropout youth and reenrolls them in school.
- **CEO II:** Offers art apprenticeships in the following fields: painting, photography, poetry, & sculpture.
- **Children's Outing Association (COA):** Offers many educational and recreational opportunities including: GED classes, parenting classes and summer camps.
- **Strive Media:** Offers media apprenticeships in the following fields: Advertising and PR, Computers, Print Journalism and Television Broadcast.
- **YMCA: Sponsor A Scholar:** Pre-college